

Public (orig) (19548) Department.

M₅ SERIES.

G.O. No. 1474

Dated 18-6-48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Ministry - Constitution and Official position of the Hon
of the Indian Army and Navy after 15-8-47 - Papers
Recorded.

D.O.No.F.016248/Coord(A)
Government of India.
Ministry of Defence.
New Delhi, the 19th May 194

My dear Ramunni Memon,

I find that there exists a greatdeal of misapprehension regarding constitution and official position of the Heads of the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy, and feel that it would be an advantage if I were to explain briefly the changes which have come in with the coming of the Independence.

2. Under Section 4 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in India was appointed under the Royal Sign Manual. He was a member of Governor General's Council by virtue of his office and enjoyed rank and precedence in the Council next after the Governor General.

3. In 1946, the Commander-in-Chief ceased to be a member of the Governor General's Executive Council. A non-official was appointed War Member who became responsible for all policy decisions of Government. The Commander-in-Chief dealt with Government on all policy matters through the War Member but still continued to be the Head of all His Majesty's Armed Forces in Indian and accordingly to enjoy a special position.

4. The position after the 15th August 1947 is that the post of Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's Forces in India has been abolished. The supreme control over the armed forces in India now vests in the Government of India. Instead the posts of Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, Chief of the Naval Staff Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy and Chief of the Air Staff and Air Marshal Commanding, Royal Indian Air Force have been created. They are the heads of the respective services and act under the general supervision and control of the Government in the Ministry of Defence.

5. The work of coordination of the three Services Headquarters is done by the Defence Ministry. The machinery that has been evolved at present is the establishment of the two Committees: (1) the Defence Minister's Committee, of which the members are the Defence Minister, the Defence Secretary, the three Service Chiefs and Financial Adviser to the Ministry of Defence; (2) the Defence Secretary's Committee for each of the three Services separately and, when necessary, for all the three services together. The former Committee deals, in the main with important issues of Principle and policy; the latter deals with these and in addition a great deal of relatively detailed work.

It is clearly desirable that all correspondence with Service Headquarters should ordinarily be through the Defence Ministry. It will, I suggest, ensure quick disposal in most matters if references are made directly to either the Secretary ~~xxxx~~ or the Joint Secretary concerned by name.

Yours Sincerely,

(S/d. H.M.Patel)
Secretary.

Shri. K.Ramunni Menon, C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,
M A D R A S.

P.T.O.

Public (Military) Department.

Endorsement No.2459/48, dated 29-5-48.

Sub: - Military - Constitution and Official position of the Heads of the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy after 15-7-47.

Ref: - From the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Defence D.O.No.F.0162/48/Coord A, dated 19-5-48.

Communicated to all Department of Secretariat for information and guidance. the Private Secretary to H.E.the Governor.

Sd. x x x x x x x x x,
22-5-48.

To all Departments of Secretariat.

To the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

-do- Secretary to Hon'ble Premier.

PUBLIC (MILITARY) DEPARTMENT.

Military - Constitution and official position of the Heads of the Indian Army Air Force, and Navy after 15-8-47 .

Ref:- From the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Defence D.O.No.F.0162/48/Coord A, dated 19-5-48.

please see the D.O. at page 1-2 c.f. from the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

Advance copy of the D.O. may be submitted to His Excellency the Governor Hon'ble Premier and Hon'ble Ministers for information.

A copy of the D.O. may also be communicated to all Departments of the Secretariat and to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor for information and guidance Draft endorsement submitted.

Sd. x x x x x x x,
23-5-48.

[Issued as Endorsement No.2459/48-1, dated 29-5-48.]

There is no further action in this file.
The papers may be Recorded in a G.O. for facility of future reference.

Sd. x x x x x x x,
Secretary to Government.
15-6-48.

G.O.Ms.No.1474, dated 18-6-48.

Military - Constitution and official position of the Heads of the Indian Army and Navy after 15-8-47 - Papers - Recorded.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

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